

## *Glyptemys insculpta* (Wood Turtle)

### Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

**Class:** *Reptilia* (Reptiles)

**Order:** *Testudines* (Turtles And Tortoises)

**Family:** *Emydidae* (Pond Turtles)

#### General comments:

Range-wide declines; possibly secure in northern ME

#### No Species Conservation Range Maps Available for Wood Turtle

#### SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

##### Risk of Extirpation:

IUCN Red List Status: **Endangered**

##### State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

*Glyptemys insculpta* is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

##### Recent Significant Declines: NA

##### Regional Endemic: NA

##### High Regional Conservation Priority:

Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:

Risk: Yes, Data: Yes, Area: Yes, Spec: Yes, Warrant Listing: Yes, Total Categories with "Yes": 5

Northeast Regional Synthesis (RSGCN):

Responsibility: High, Concern: Very High

Northeast Partners In Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC):

Regional Responsibility: > 50% US/Canada Distribution (includes 'close'), Concern: >= 75% of States Listed in WAP

##### High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

##### Understudied rare taxa: NA

##### Historical: NA

##### Culturally Significant: NA

#### Habitats Assigned to Wood Turtle:

##### Formation Name      Agricultural

Macrogroup Name      Agricultural

Habitat System Name: Cultivated Crops      **Notes:** *secondary*

Habitat System Name: Pasture-Hay      **Notes:** *secondary*

##### Formation Name      Boreal Upland Forest

Macrogroup Name      Boreal Upland Forest

Habitat System Name: Acadian Low Elevation Spruce-Fir-Hardwood Forest      **Notes:** *secondary*

Habitat System Name: Acadian Sub-boreal Spruce Flat      **Notes:** *secondary*

Habitat System Name: Boreal Jack Pine-Black Spruce Forest      **Notes:** *secondary*

##### Formation Name      Developed

Macrogroup Name      Extractive

Habitat System Name: Quarries-Pits-Stripmines      **Notes:** *secondary*

##### Formation Name      Freshwater Aquatic

Macrogroup Name      Rivers and Streams

Habitat System Name: Headwaters and Creeks      **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***      **Notes:** *primary*

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Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

**IUCN Level 1 Threat****Biological Resource Use****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Poaching and incidental collection**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Logging and Wood Harvesting**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Highly actionable**IUCN Level 1 Threat****Residential and Commercial Development****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Housing and Urban Areas**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation from development and increased human activity**IUCN Level 1 Threat****Transportation and Service Corridors****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Roads and Railroads**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Mortality from vehicle collisions on roads is major threat and roads also contribute to the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of habitat**IUCN Level 1 Threat****Agriculture and Aquaculture****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Annual and Perennial Non-timber crops**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Hay field mortality (only at applicable sites)**IUCN Level 1 Threat****Natural Systems Modifications****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Dams and Water Management-Use**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Moderately actionable

### Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Wood Turtle:

*\*Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

**Conservation Action****Category:** Species Management**Biological Priority:** moderate**Type:** on-going

Expand cautionary road crossing signage program to include wood turtle as important road crossing hotspots are identified for this species.

**Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Roads and Railroads

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<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Species Management	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> on-going
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Identify potential road crossing hotspots using GIS and monitor mortality at those locations with road surveys to prioritize the most problematic road segments for mitigation measures such as cautionary signage, exclusionary fencing

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Roads and Railroads

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Species Management	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> new
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Install road crossing structures consisting of under-road passageways and guidance fencing where high-mortality road segments bisect habitat that hosts high priority populations

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Roads and Railroads

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Public Outreach	<b>Biological Priority:</b> moderate	<b>Type:</b> on-going
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Continue to build public awareness of risks to wood turtles posed by roadways with seasonally appropriate press release that also warns motorists to be on the lookout for turtles during spring/early summer.

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Roads and Railroads

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Policy	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> on-going
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Deter casual collection by educating the public on the importance of leaving turtles where they find them

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

### Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

### Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

### Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

*The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.*